

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of the claims replaces all prior versions and listing of the claims in the present application.

Listing of Claims

1-9. (canceled)

10. (new) An infrared steering method for controlling a plurality of infrared controlled devices with a plurality of infrared controlling devices, the method comprising the steps of: identifying each of the plurality of controlled devices by setting therein a respective first wait time between receipt of an end of a steering information signal and receipt of a beginning of an immediately following synchronization signal, and a respective second wait time between receipt of an end of a start signal and receipt of beginning of the steering information signal, a length of the second wait time identifying the respective controlled device;

in each of the plurality of controlling devices, identifying a respective one of the plurality of controlled devices to which an infrared signal is to be directed by setting a time delay between an end of transmission of the start signal and beginning of transmission of the steering information signal, a length of the time delay corresponding to the second wait time set in the

respective controlled device and identifying the respective controlled device to which the infrared signal is to be directed; in each of the controlling devices, when the synchronization signal is not received in the first time period, transmitting the infrared signal with, in order, the synchronization signal, the start signal, the time delay, and the steering information signal, from the respective controlling device to the plurality of controlled devices, and when the synchronization signal is received in the first time period, transmitting the infrared signal without the synchronization signal but with, in order, the start signal, the time delay, and the steering information signal, from the respective controlling device to the plurality of controlled devices;

in each of the plurality of controlled devices, receiving the transmitted infrared signal and determining whether the received infrared signal is directed to the respective controlled device by measuring the time delay, wherein the received infrared signal is directed to the respective controlled device when the measured time delay corresponds to the second wait time set therein.

11. (new) An infrared steering system for controlling a plurality of infrared controlled devices with a plurality of infrared controlling devices, the system comprising:

a plurality of controlled devices, wherein each of the plurality of controlled devices is identified by having set therein a respective first wait time between receipt of an end of a steering information signal and receipt of a beginning of an immediately following synchronization signal, and a respective second wait time between receipt of an end of a start signal and receipt of beginning of the steering information signal, a length of the second wait time identifying the respective controlled device;

a plurality of controlling devices, wherein each of the plurality of controlling devices identifies a respective one of the plurality of controlled devices to which an infrared signal is to be directed by having set therein a time delay between an end of transmission of the start signal and beginning of transmission of the steering information signal, a length of the time delay corresponding to the second wait time set in the respective controlled device and identifying the respective controlled device to which the infrared signal is to be directed;

each of the controlling devices being arranged so that when the synchronization signal is not received in the first time period, transmitting the infrared signal with, in order, the synchronization signal, the start signal, the time delay, and the steering information signal, from the respective controlling device to the plurality of controlled devices, and when the

synchronization signal is received in the first time period, transmitting the infrared signal without the synchronization signal but with, in order, the start signal, the time delay, and the steering information signal, from the respective controlling device to the plurality of controlled devices;

each of the plurality of controlled devices being arranged to receive the transmitted infrared signal and determine whether the received infrared signal is directed to the respective controlled device by measuring the time delay, wherein the received infrared signal is directed to the respective controlled device when the measured time delay corresponds to the second wait time set therein.